WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A composition comprising a uric acid derivative.

2. The composition of Claim 1, wherein said uric acid derivative is a sugar derivative.

3. The composition of Claim 2, wherein said derivative is selected from xanthosine or uric acid osine.

4. The composition of Claim 1, wherein said uric acid derivative is a salt derivative.

5. The composition of Claim 4, wherein said derivative is a sodium salt, calcium salt, potassium salt, lithium salt or ammonium salt derivative.

6. The composition of Claim 1, wherein said uric acid derivative is an alkylated derivative.

7. The composition of Claim 6, wherein said alkylated derivative is a methylated derivative.

8. The composition of Claim 1, further comprising one or more of an antioxidant, precursor of glutathione, inhibitor of NO synthase or inhibitor of homocysteine formation.

9. The composition of Claim 8, wherein said antioxidant is selected from vitamin C, vitamin C derivatives and vitamin E.

10. The composition of Claim 8, wherein said precursor of glutathione is n-acetyl-l-cysteine.

11. The composition of Claim 8, wherein said inhibitor of NO synthase is an anti-inflammatory steroid.

12. The composition of Claim 8, wherein said inhibitor of homocysteine formation is vitamin B6 or folic acid.

13. A dosage form for oral administration comprising a uric acid derivative, said derivative being present in an amount effective to raise uric acid levels.

14. The dosage form of Claim 13, wherein said uric acid derivative is a salt derivative.

15. The dosage form of Claim 13, wherein said derivative is a sugar derivative.

16. The dosage form of Claim 13, wherein said derivative is an alkylated derivative.

17. The dosage form of Claim 13, wherein said effective amount is between about 100 mg and 25 g of uric acid precursor.

18. The dosage form of Claim 13, wherein said derivative of uric acid is present in an amount effective to raise levels of uric acid to above about 4.9 mg of uric acid per 100 ml of blood.

19. The dosage form of Claim 13, further comprising one or more of an antioxidant, precursor of glutathione, inhibitor of NO synthase or inhibitor of homocysteine formation.

20. A pharmaceutical composition comprising the composition of Claim 1.

21. The composition of Claim 20, further comprising one or more of an antioxidant, precursor of glutathione, inhibitor of NO synthase, or inhibitor of homocysteine formation.

22. A single oral dose of a uric acid derivative effective to raise uric acid levels in a human.

23. A method of raising uric acid levels in a patient comprising administering to said patient an effective amount of the composition of Claim 1.

24. The method of Claim 23, wherein said method is used in the treatment of an illness.

25. The method of Claim 24, wherein said illness is selected from the group consisting of cancer, rheumatoid arthritis, inflammatory disease, infectious disease, lung disease, immunological disease, neurodegenerative disease, macular degeneration, heart disease, artery occlusion, Alzheimer's disease and diabetes.

26. The method of Claim 23, further comprising the administration of one or more of an antioxidant, precursor of glutathione, inhibitor of NO synthase or inhibitor of homocysteine formation.

27. A composition comprising a uric acid precursor selected from xanthine derivatives, hypoxanthine derivatives, inosine, inosine derivatives and biological equivalents of any of these compounds.

28. The composition of Claim 27, further comprising one or more of an antioxidant, precursor of glutathione, inhibitor of NO synthase or inhibitor of homocysteine formation.

29. A Wisconsin Solution comprising an effective amount of a uric acid derivative, a uric acid precursor, or mixtures thereof.

30. The solution of Claim 29, further comprising one or more of an antioxidant, precursor of glutathione, inhibitor of NO synthase, inhibitor of homosysteine formation, an NO donor, a substrate for NO, or a water soluble spin label.

31. The solution of Claim 29, further comprising an Nf kappa b inhibitor.

32. A method of preserving a transplantable biological material comprising contacting said material with the solution of Claim 29.

33. The method of Claim 32, wherein the solution is below body temperature.